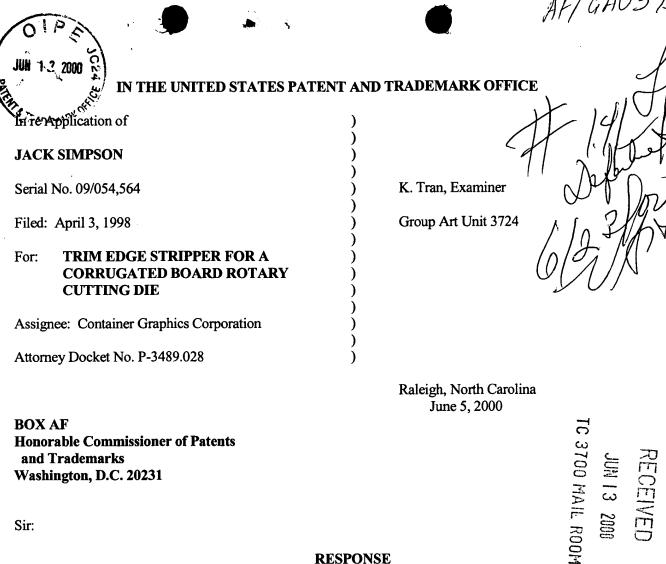
AF/GAU3724



RESPONSE

Sir:

In response to the Official Office Action of May 19, 2000 relating to the above-identified United States patent application, the Applicant herein confirms that a Response corresponding to the Office Action of April 27, 2000, which addressed identical concerns as the Office Action of May 19, 2000, was mailed to the Patent Office on May 26, 2000. This should rectify the Notice of Non-Compliance with 37 CFR 1.192(c), and clarify the issues for the Appeal.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attorneys for Applicant

By:

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS DOCUMENT IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL, POSTAGE PREPAID, IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: BOX AF, COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231.

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